

Holidays in your hometown

Pull out and keep this section for information and ideas on how to enjoy the holiday season in Santa Clara.

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony



Feel the spirit of an old fashioned small town Christmas! The City of Santa Clara will celebrate its annual "Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony" on Friday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.

This year's celebration will include live music, twinkling lights and festive decor, complete with cookies for the kids and hot coffee for the grown ups. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be on sale to enjoy while awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Bring your camera to take your child's photo sitting on Santa's lap!

The event is open to the public, and will take place at the corner of Civic Center Drive and Lincoln Avenue in Santa Clara. Please remember to bring a canned food item for Second Harvest Food Bank. Call 615-3170 for further information.



Look for Teddy at top of tree



Employees from the Electric Utility, Silicon Valley Power, like Electric Meter Technician Phil Waterhouse (pictured above), help to keep this holiday tradition.

He may not say much, but Teddy, the stuffed bear at the top of the holiday tree in Santa Clara, appreciates being noticed. He's been watching over the City's sparkling tree and holiday festivities since 1911 when a utilities superintendent for the City borrowed the bear from his one-year-old daughter, Alice Dixon Hillis, to serve as an ornament on the tree. Teddy has spent December on top of the Santa Clara holiday tree ever since.

December Events

Comfort and Joy Concert

Friday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 12

In its highly popular holiday tradition of "Comfort and Joy", the Santa Clara Chorale features classical favorites, well-loved carols, and audience caroling. Enjoy the classics of Antonio Vivaldi and Bach, contemporary compositions of Vaughan Williams and David Willcocks and new arrangements by Artistic Director Ryan Brandau. The concerts begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and 4 p.m. on Sunday, both in Mission Santa Clara. For information and tickets visit www.scc.org.

The Nutcracker Ballet

Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12



A full-length production of "The Nutcracker Ballet" will be presented by the Santa Clara Ballet, under Artistic Director Josefa Villanueva-Reyes. All performances will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway. Curtain times for this 37th annual full-length performance are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Dancers of all levels and ages are invited to open auditions for this production on Sept. 12, starting at 12 noon, at the Santa Clara Ballet School, 3086 El Camino Real. The company engages professional guest artists in lead roles, while providing opportunities for semi- or pre-professional dancers, children, and adults to perform in a professional environment.

For more information, call 865-9780 or visit www.santaclaraballet.org.

Historic Home Tour

Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4

The always-delightful Historic Home Tour began 32 years ago. Among the private homes on this year's tour are the H.L. Warburton House (pictured at right), an 1889 Stripped Queen Anne Victorian, and the Ravizza-Changras House, a 1927 California Bungalow. Other architectural styles will also be represented. The public building on the tour will be The Adobe Lodge, one of the oldest structures on the Santa Clara University Campus. The homes are open 6-10 p.m. on Friday and 12 noon-5 p.m. on Saturday.



The Board of the Harris-Lass Museum co-sponsors the tour with the Old Quad Residents' Association. Proceeds benefit historic preservation projects and other non-profit groups in Santa Clara.

Tickets are \$20 if ordered by mail or on the tour's website by Oct. 31. Tickets also may be ordered by sending a legal-size self addressed stamped envelope to: Historic Home Tour 2010, c/o Harris-Lass Museum, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311.

Beginning Nov. 1, ticket prices will be: \$25 general admission, \$20 Seniors (60+) or Children (6-12). No children under the age of 6 will be

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December Events

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admitted. Beginning Nov. 1, tickets may be purchased at City Lights Espresso, 1171 Homestead Rd. If still available the days of the tour, all tickets will be \$30 at the door.

For more information, call the Harris-Lass Museum message line at 249-7905, or view the Home Tour website at: www.sc-hometour.com.

The Christmas Mouse

Dec. 3-12

The Santa Clara Players will perform an original play by Michael Antonucci based on the music of Linda Arnold, for children ages 4-10. Performances are 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Dec. 4 and 11, and 3 p.m. on Dec. 5 and 12 at the Triton Museum Hall Pavilion, 1511 Warburton Ave. Tickets are \$10.

This is the tale of Mrs. Robinson who is determined to win the Gingerbread House contest this year. But the Christmas mouse, who lives with the Robinsons, needs food for his family and finds her creation. Unfortunately, the mouse has no self control and destroys the entire gingerbread house, which renders him quite ill. Eventually, with some outside help, things get better and the mouse learns quite a lot about life and getting along with the big people.

For information, visit www.scplayers.org or call 248-7993.



Holiday-themed operas

Saturday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 19

Mission City Opera will present “Truce of Carols” by Michael Taylor, followed by “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” a one act opera by Gian Carlo Menotti that has become a holiday tradition. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts, 3250 Monroe St. Tickets are priced from \$15 to \$45 and may be purchased online at www.missioncityopera.org or call 749-7607 for information on purchase and performance times.

Unusual holiday gift ideas

For unique gift ideas that showcase your pride in Santa Clara, visit the City Store at the Chamber of Commerce, 1850 Warburton Ave. Gift items include sweatshirts, mugs, polo shirts, golf accessories, canvas tote bags, umbrellas, license plate frames, and more.

The Santa Clara Arts & Historical Consortium can provide prints from the photographs in its historic photo collection, which includes the City of Santa Clara’s historic photographs. An 8 by 10 inch photograph costs only \$20. For larger sizes, request quotes. Copies of about 150 of these photographs are hanging in the corridors of City Hall, in Save Mart supermarket at 2610 El Camino Real, and in Kaiser Hospital. The complete collection can be viewed and orders placed on most Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton Ave. Call 248-ARTS.

Show you care about the environment, as well as the individual, by giving Energy Star power-efficient electronics such as audio and video equipment, speakers, TVs, cordless phones, computer equipment and compact fluorescent light bulbs. More gift ideas can be found at siliconvalleypower.com/plugins, and you can learn more about power savings at EnergyStar.gov.

Recycle your holiday tree

The holiday season’s final tradition is putting the tree out for curbside recycling. This year, trees will be picked up on your regular solid waste collection day during the week of January 3-7. Here’s what to do:

- Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails, and the stand. Flocked trees cannot be recycled, so they will be collected and disposed of as garbage.
- Place the stripped tree next to the garbage, recycling and Clean Green cart setouts at the curb on your regular collection day.
- Holiday trees from small businesses and residents who miss the curbside collection may be dropped off at the southwest corner of the intersection of San Tomas Expressway and Monroe Streets. The drop-off will be available during the week of January 3-7 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. only.
- Multi-family residents can set out their holiday trees on the nearest public street for pickup on the assigned single family home

garbage/recycling collection days. Call 615-2063 to find out assigned garbage/recycling days in particular areas.

- Trees may also be recycled after Jan. 7 by cutting up the tree and placing the pieces in the Clean Green cart. For more information on holiday tree recycling, call 615-2063.

Reduce and recycle holiday waste

Dreaming of a “Green Christmas?” Here are some eco-friendly holiday ideas:

- Wrap gifts in comics, old maps or other colorful paper materials normally found around the home or office.
- Instead of wrapping gifts in paper, try presenting them in reusable containers like tin or plastic holiday boxes, gift bags or baskets. Save gift bags, boxes and bows for reuse.
- Buy gift wrap that contains recycled paper. Avoid metallic-type wrapping papers that contain foil, Mylar or holographic materials, which are not recyclable.
- Recycle wrapping paper (except metallic, foil, Mylar or holographic) with mixed paper in the City’s new single-stream curbside recycling program. Simply place in the blue recycle cart.
- Make gift tags or ornaments from old greeting cards and wrapping materials.
- Use cloth napkins, metal flatware, china plates and real glasses for “waste-less” holiday parties and meals.
- Purchase a manufactured tree that can be stored and reused each year.

Excess holiday waste a problem?

Holidays bring friends, families, parties and get-togethers – and sometimes more trash than your garbage cart can handle. Santa Clara residents may set out as many as four additional 30-gallon plastic garbage bags (limit two bags per week) on their regular solid waste collection day from Dec. 27 through Jan. 7 at no extra charge.

At any other time during the year, for a nominal cost, additional 30-gallon plastic bags of garbage tied with “extra bag” tags may be placed at the curb for pickup on your regular solid waste collection day.

Extra bag tags can be purchased for \$3 each at the Cashier’s Counter in the Finance Department at City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tags may also be ordered by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check (payable to “City of Santa Clara”) to the Utility Services Division, Finance Department, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Indicate the number of tags to be purchased and make the check payable for the exact amount of \$3 per tag.

Residential customers with front-load dumpsters are eligible to get one additional collection per year free of charge. Just call Mission Trail Waste Systems at 727-5365 to make an appointment for the extra collection. For more information, call 615-2063.

Holiday crime prevention tips

Unfortunately, the holidays present many opportunities for burglars, muggers and pick-pockets. The following tips for a safer holiday season are provided by your Santa Clara Police Department. Practice these tips all year long!

Shopping Safety

- Lock packages in the trunk.
- Don’t overload yourself with packages.
- If you must shop in the evening, shop with a friend.
- Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don’t carry or flash large sums of cash.
- Carry your purse next to your body with the purse flap against you. Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Don’t allow your attention to become distracted from your purse or packages.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or shopping mall.
- Don’t hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- If you are a victim of a crime, report it to police immediately.

Home Safety

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone for a minute.

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- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- When going on trips or out for evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with your California Driver's License or ID number. Engravers are available at the Central Park Library for check out.
- Don't advertise what gifts you received by putting the boxes curbside on trash day. Break the boxes down before placing curbside, or take them to a recycling center yourself.

Traveling

- Use automatic timers for lights in your home.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery.
- Ask neighbors to look after your home.
- Don't tell the world that your home will be empty by posting vacation plans on Facebook, Twitter or other social networking websites.

Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest



Nominations for the annual Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest will be accepted from Nov. 29 through Dec. 8. Decorate the exterior of your home in cheerful, colorful holiday décor and talk to your neighbors about doing the same. Nominate yourself, your neighbor, or one of the brightly lit homes you've seen around the City.

Nominations for best outdoor decorations in four categories (residential, business, neighborhood, and best tree) will be evaluated by a team of judges on or after Thursday, Dec. 9. Winners will be announced the week of Dec. 13. Check the City's website at santaclaraca.gov for the list of winners along with the full list of entrants in convenient driving order. Winners will be acknowledged at a City Council meeting in early January 2011.

For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 615-2210.

2010 Annual Report/2011 City Calendar coming your way

During the month of December, Santa Clara's 2010 Annual Report/2011 City Calendar will be distributed to all residents by mail. If you do not receive one by January 1, additional copies will be available at City Hall and the Library.

The issue will focus on both significant accomplishments of the past year and the City Council's 2009-2011 Principles and Priorities. A suggestion card on the back of the calendar allows residents and businesses a convenient opportunity to submit ideas on improving City services, or to forward a compliment about a particular municipal program or the response of City staff.

PREVENT HOLIDAY TREE FIRES



Christmas trees, both real and artificial, are the items first ignited in an estimated average of 240 reported U.S. structure fires per year. These fires caused an average of 25 civilian deaths and \$13.1 million in direct property damage per year. Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they occur, they are likely to be serious. On average, one of every 15 reported fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death.

According to the United States Fire Administration and the Santa Clara Fire Department, there are simple, life-saving steps you can take to greatly reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Selecting a tree

- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for your tree

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of your tree:

- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- The best way to dispose of your tree is to take advantage of the City's tree recycling program.

More holiday fire safety tips

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only holiday lighting that has been listed by an approved testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Make sure to periodically check the wires — they should not be warm to the touch.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.
- Never put lit candles on a tree.
- Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame — candles, lighters or matches.

Enjoy the arts during the holiday season

SANTA CLARA ARTS & HISTORICAL CONSORTIUM

Santa Clara Museums



Agnews Historic Cemetery & Museum

This brick visitor's center at 1250 Hope Dr. opened as a museum in 2010 and was originally a building on the west campus of Agnews State Hospital. When the State closed the hospital, the land was sold, and then developed for housing and for the corporate headquarters of Sun Microsystems/Oracle. The building was moved to this location, adjacent to the State Hospital's former cemetery, and restored by the City. Open by appointment only, the museum contains artifacts and photos of the hospital's past. A viewing gazebo overlooks the cemetery. For more information or to tour, call 615-3790.



Berryessa Adobe

In the 1840s, this simple adobe dwelling was constructed about a mile west of Mission Santa Clara. The house was lived in by generations of families who immigrated to Santa Clara to labor in fields and factories, and make new lives for themselves. Owned by the City, the Berryessa Adobe is one of the last adobes in the Santa Clara Valley, and is an interpretive site on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Located at 373 Jefferson St. and generally open Thurs. and Sat., 12 noon to 2 p.m., or by appointment. Group tours may also be arranged. Call 615-2488 or email: BerryessaAdobe@santaclaraca.gov.



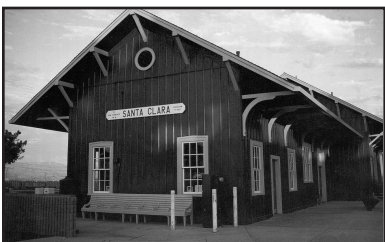
de Saisset Museum

The de Saisset Museum is adjacent to Mission Santa Clara de Asís on the Santa Clara University campus and is one of only three museums in the South Bay accredited by the American Association of Museums. The museum presents a diverse and accessible range of exhibitions and educational programs highlighting art and history of the San Francisco Bay Area and Santa Clara Valley. The collection focuses on six main areas including California history, Mission-era liturgical vestments, decorative arts, works on paper, painting and sculpture, and new media. Admission is free; galleries open Tues. – Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the academic year. Visit www.scu.edu/desaisset or call 554-4528.



Harris-Lass Historic Museum

Located at 1889 Market St., the Harris-Lass Historic Museum is the last preserved farm site in the City of Santa Clara. The property includes a large fully furnished Italianate-style home, barn, summer kitchen and a tank house, and is named for the two families who owned it and lived there for 125 years. Now owned by the City, the museum is operated by the nonprofit Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara, and staffed volunteers. Guided tours aid visitors in learning about local history and life in the early 1900s. Museum hours are most Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Parking is free. For information, call 249-7905 or see HarrisLass.org.



Pictured top to bottom, above:

- **Agnews Historic Cemetery & Museum**
- **Berryessa Adobe**
- **de Saisset Museum**
- **Harris-Lass Historic Museum**
- **Headen-Inman House**
- **Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe**
- **South Bay Historical Railroad Society Museum**
- **Triton Museum of Art**

Headen-Inman House

The charming Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton Ave., includes a museum with photographs and artifacts related to the history of Santa Clara. Rotating exhibits by the Santa Clara Art Association are also on display. The Santa Clara Founders and Pioneers Room has exhibits featuring founding families and early pioneers of Santa Clara County. The house, named after the two families who once owned it, is now owned by the City, but is operated by and is the headquarters of the nonprofit Santa Clara Arts & Historical Consortium. Open most Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For information, call 248-ARTS.

Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe

Located at 3260 The Alameda, the Adobe is a State-registered landmark and one of the oldest surviving adobe structures in northern California. With its origins dating to 1784, the Pena adobe was originally part of a row of houses for married Indian couples. The Santa Clara Woman's Club now uses the adobe as its club headquarters and meeting place. The Woman's Club provides encouragement and support for youth in Santa Clara, and cooperates with other organizations to aid seniors, veterans and the handicapped. Call 246-8000 for information.

South Bay Historical Railroad Society

The South Bay Historical Railroad Society was founded in 1985 with the goal of preserving the heritage of American railroading. SBHRS accomplished the major task of renovating the historic Santa Clara Depot, maintains the facility and researches its history. The group also built and maintains onsite HO and N scale museum-grade model train layouts. The Santa Clara Depot, at the Santa Clara Caltrain Station, is regularly open to the public on Sat., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tues., 6 to 9 p.m., at 1005 Railroad Ave. Call 243-3969 for information, or visit sbhrs.org.

Triton Museum of Art

The Triton Museum of Art exists to enhance the quality of lives of people in Santa Clara and the Bay Area through a program of art, education, and community involvement. Rotating exhibits highlight the museum's permanent collection of 19th and 20th century American art. *Native Americans Yesterday and Today: Selections from the Austen D. Warburton Collection*, is a permanent exhibition. Museum buildings are owned by the City, and operated by the nonprofit Triton Museum of Art. Located at 1505 Warburton Ave., across the street from City Hall, open Tues. – Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and until 7 p.m. on Thurs. Closed Mon. Admission and parking free. Call 247-3754, or visit TritonMuseum.org.

Other Consortium Member Groups

Foothills Region Antique Automobile Club of America

Interested in the preservation of cars that are 25 years old or older, the members of this club tour with their cars and take part in parades and many other family oriented activities. For more information, call Club Vice President Grant Danielson, 248-0939.

Los Fundadores y Amigos de Alta California, the Founders and Friends of Santa Clara County

The goals of Los Fundadores are to preserve the history and heritage of Santa Clara County and early California, to maintain a museum room in the Headen-Inman House, to provide rotating genealogical displays, and to develop research materials for the library room at the museum. The group was established in 1987 by Evalyn Martinez. It publishes a quarterly newsletter aimed at preserving the history and heritage of the founding families and early pioneers of Santa Clara County from its founding through 1889. For information, call Evalyn Martinez at 926-1165.

Santa Clara Players

The Santa Clara Players is a talented local theater group that performs in the 80-seat Hall Pavilion of the Triton Museum of Art. Its season runs from October through June and includes three public productions plus one-act plays that can be performed for groups by special arrangement. Call 248-7993 for more information or visit scplayers.org.

Santa Clara Sister Cities Association

Individuals interested in promoting an appreciation for the world and its diverse cultures are invited to join the Santa Clara Sister Cities Association (SCA). Membership is open to residents of Santa Clara and non-residents. SCA works closely with the City's International Exchange Commission which coordinates exchange programs with Santa Clara's two sister-cities: Coimbra, Portugal and Izumo, Japan. SCA meets four or five times per year at the Senior Center in Santa Clara. For more information on SCA or opportunities to host visitors, contact SCA President Debi Davis at 244-7551 or visit SantaClaraSisterCities.org.

Santa Clara Valley Porcelain Artists

Santa Clara Valley Porcelain Artists is dedicated to studying, teaching and promoting the art of china, glass and porcelain painting. Activities include monthly meetings/luncheons, workshops/seminars, demonstrations, porcelain exchange, and community involvement. For more information, call Arline Norsworthy at 296-8319.

Consortium Member Groups include:

City of Santa Clara* – Agnews Historic Cemetery & Museum, and Berryessa Adobe
de Saisset Museum*
Foothills Region Antique Automobile Club of America
Garden City Doll Club
Goldentones*
Harvest Moon Quilters
Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara*
KKUP Radio
Los Fundadores, Founders and Friends of Santa Clara Co.
Mission City Opera
Mission Trail Early Ford V-8 Club
Orchard Valley Fine Arts Foundation
Santa Clara Art Association*
Santa Clara City Library*
Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society*
Santa Clara Players
Santa Clara Sister Cities Association*
Santa Clara Schools Foundation*
Santa Clara Valley Porcelain Artists
Santa Clara Woman's Club*
Soroptimist International of Santa Clara*
South Bay Historical Railroad Society*
Spanish Heritage Society
Triton Museum of Art*

*Affiliate Members

For more information on the Consortium or information on any of the groups listed above, call 248-ARTS.